

Message

From: Rosencrantz, Ingrid [Rosencrantz.Ingrid@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/9/2016 5:16:25 PM
To: Minter, Douglas [Minter.Douglas@epa.gov]
CC: Peake, Tom [Peake.Tom@epa.gov]; Green, Holly [Green.Holly@epa.gov]; O'Connor, Darcy [oconnor.darcy@epa.gov]; Bahrman, Sarah [Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov]; Shea, Valois [Shea.Valois@epa.gov]; Jackson, Scott [Jackson.Scott@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: FYI: EPA Region 8's Pending Draft UIC Permits and Proposed Aquifer Exemption for the Dewey Burdock Uranium ISR Site

Thanks. I will forward this up the chain.
Ingrid

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On Nov 9, 2016, at 12:13 PM, Minter, Douglas <Minter.Douglas@epa.gov> wrote:

Greetings Tom and Ingrid: we wanted to give you and your management the benefit of knowing where EPA Region 8 is on our proposed UIC uranium ISR-related actions by way of the following summary we recently sent through our RA to the Administrator in response to her request for an update:

Before the end of November, EPA Region 8 anticipates issuing draft UIC permits and an aquifer exemption decision to Powertech USA, Inc. for a proposed uranium in-situ recovery (ISR) project northwest of Edgemont, South Dakota. These UIC permits will be the first EPA has directly issued for uranium recovery nationwide, and include some requirements that will be new to the uranium ISR industry to ensure adequate protection of underground sources of drinking water (USDWs). The proposed project site is near the Black Hills, where at least 38 tribal nations have historic claims or consider this area to be sacred. The closest Indian Reservation (i.e., Pine Ridge) is 46 miles to the southeast of the project site. Through consultation over the past several months, several tribes have raised concerns about potential impacts on historic properties of cultural importance. Following issuance of the draft permits, we will provide interested tribes and other stakeholders specific information about how the UIC permits propose to protect USDWs at the site. There will be a 75 day public comment period (vs. the 30 day regulatory requirement), and four public outreach events (including hearings) in January near the site to allow ample opportunity for tribes and other stakeholders to provide comments. We will continue to encourage interested tribes to consult with us through the permitting process. Because of the tribal concerns raised and the proximity of this project to the Dakota Access Pipeline where some of the same Tribes are engaged (e.g., Standing Rock Sioux), we expect to receive many adverse comments and that a final decision to issue UIC permits would be appealed. Region 8's Office of Water Protection/UIC and Public Affairs programs are coordinating closely with OW, OGWDW, OITA, OAR, OPA and OGC.

We also have a final draft Communications Strategy in the event you would like to review that as well.

Please let us know if you have any questions, etc.

Sincerely,

Douglas K. Minter
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